(b) what precautions have been taken by the technical experts to evaluate the quality and the price of such FAX machines;

(c) what is the range of prices of such FAX machines,

(d) whether any comparative study in respect of the technical quality has been made; and

(e) if so, whether it has been circulated to Government/Semi Government Organisations?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) DOT gives interface and type approval for FAX machines without indicating their gradation on applications from the manufacturers/users. Any body intending to use the approved machines can purchase the same and obtain operating licence from the department.

(b) The techincal specification of the machines are verified/examined with reference to DOT's standard specification. Price evaluation is done by call of competitive tender wherever DOT wishes to purchase FAX machines for its own use.

(c) The prices are variable depending upon market conditions.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of (d) above.

Telephone Exchanges in Uttar Prades

4239. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of old and out dated telephone exchanges in Uttar Pradesh which need replacement and modernisation;

(b) the number of electronic and crossbar exchanges commissioned during the period since the new Government took over;

(c) the number of blocks and villages brought under the telephone net work during the said period; and

(d) whether the telephones in the rural areas are working satisfactorily?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) 270.

(b) 367 electronic exchanges and no Cross-Bar exchanges have been commisssioned during this period.

(c) 3219 Gram Panchayats in U.P. and 24563 in the entire country have been brought under telephone net work.

(d) Yes, Sir. However due to prolonged interruption in power supply in the old type of exchanges at some places, some lines get affected and these are attended to at the earliest.

Amount spent on subsidy

4240. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of subsidy spent on fertilizers, distributed to farmers and also the subsidy amounts on paper, sugar, rice, wheat etc. distributed to certain classes of consumers in the years 1990-91, 1991-92;

(b) whether the prices of unduly increased yarns, dyes and chemicals have been subsidised to help handloom weavers; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The total amount of subsidy spent onn fertilisers, paper etc. during 1990-91 and 1991-92 is as under:

(In crores of Rupees

Items	Years 1990-91	1991-92
1. Subsidy on fertilizers	4389.06	4799.60
2. Scheme of fertilizer subsidy to small and marginal farmers	..	385.44
3. Subsidy on Paper	5.22	..
4. Subsidy on sugar rice, wheat etc.	2450.00	2850.00

(b) and (c) There is no scheme to subsidise handloom weavers with regard to the price of yarn dyes and chemicals. The present fiscal position of government does not permit introduction of any subsidy scheme on the prices of these items. However, there are a number of existing Plan and non-Plan schemes for the development of the Handloom sector and weavers.

सांगली बैंक लिमिटेड के शेयरों में घांधली

2441. **डा० बापू कालदाते :** क्या वित्त मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सांगली बैंक लिमिटेड, सांगली के शेयरों की खरीद में कुछ घांधली हुई है ;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि कलकत्ता में मित्तल ग्रुप ने इस बैंक को अपने नियंत्रण में लेने की कोशिश की है ; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो इस बैंक को मित्तल ग्रुप के नियंत्रण से मुक्त कराने और इस बैंक के शेयर-धारकों को संरक्षण प्रदान करने के लिए सरकार क्या कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री दलबीर सिंह) : (क) से (ग) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के अनुसार, मित्तल समूह के बारे में प्राय: यह रिपोर्ट मिलती रही हैं कि वह नियंत्रक अधिकार प्राप्त करने के प्रयोजन से सांगली बैंक लि० के अधिकांश शेयर प्राप्त करने के प्रयास कर रहा है । सांगली बैंक लि० ने भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक को सूचित किया है कि बैंक, शेयरधारकों, ग्राहकों और जनता के हितों पर विस्तार से समुचित विचार करने के बाद निदेशक बोर्ड के मित्तल समूह के पक्ष में शेयर अन्तरित करने से इंकार कर दिया है ।

Challiah Committee recommendation on rates of duty

4242. SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Challiah Committee have recommended to do away with specific rates of excise duty and depend more on advalorem or specific cum advalorem rate of duty;

(b) whether it is a fact that in accordance with the said recommendations Government have already started effecting the changes; if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have found these recommendations proof;

(d) if so, by when the excise duty structure in all the industries will be rationalised as above; and

(e) if not in which specific industry the Government have found the recommendations unimplementable?